IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn; Currently Amended): A method for avoiding influence of hemoglobin in quantitatively determining a specific component in a biological specimen, which comprises:

reacting the biological specimen with albumin, then

reacting ~~, in the presence of an electron acceptor,~~ with ~~an enzyme which has an ability, by the dehydrogenation reaction, to oxidize~~ a dehydrogenase which oxidizes the specific component or a substance derived from the specific component in the presence of an electron acceptor, and

measuring the formed reductant of the electron acceptor,

wherein a measuring reagent containing albumin is used to avoid the influence of hemoglobin.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): The method for quantitatively determining a specific component in a biological specimen according to Claim 1, wherein the albumin is derived from human or bovine.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): The method for quantitatively determining a specific component in a biological specimen according to Claim 1, wherein a color developer is used for the measurement of the reductant of the electron acceptor.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): The method for quantitatively determining a specific component in a biological specimen according to Claim 3, wherein the color developer is a tetrazolium salt.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): The method for quantitatively determining a specific component in a biological specimen according to Claim 1, wherein the reductant of the electron acceptor is NADH or NADPH.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A ~~reagent~~ combination for quantitatively determining a specific component in a biological specimen, which comprises:

(i) a first reagent comprising albumin at a concentration of 0.4 to 10 mass% based on the total mass of the first reagent, and

(ii) a second reagent comprising an electron acceptor, and ~~an enzyme which has an ability, by the dehydrogenation reaction, to oxidize~~ a dehydrogenase capable of oxidizing the specific component or a substance derived from the specific component by dehydrogenation,

wherein the first reagent is a reagent for reacting the albumin with a biological specimen containing hemoglobin to avoid influence of the hemoglobin present in the biological specimen, and

wherein the second reagent is a reagent for reacting the electron acceptor and the dehydrogenase with the biological specimen after the first reagent is reacted with said biological specimen.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The ~~reagent~~ combination for quantitatively determining a specific component in a biological specimen according to Claim 6, wherein the albumin is derived from human or bovine.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The ~~reagent~~ combination for quantitatively determining a specific component in a biological specimen according to Claim 6, which further comprises a color developer.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The ~~reagent~~ combination for quantitatively determining a specific component in a biological specimen according to Claim 8, wherein the color developer is a tetrazolium salt.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The ~~reagent~~ combination for quantitatively determining a specific component in a biological specimen according to Claim 6, wherein the electron acceptor is NAD or NADP.

Claim 11 (New): The combination according to Claim 6, wherein the albumin is derived from humans and is present in an amount of from 0.4 to 5% by weight.

Claim 12 (New): The combination according to Claim 6, wherein the albumin is derived from humans and is present in an amount of from 0.6 to 2% by weight.

Claim 13 (New): The combination according to Claim 6, wherein the albumin is derived from a bovine and is present in an amount of from 1 to 10% by weight.

Claim 14 (New): The combination according to Claim 6, wherein the albumin is derived from a bovine and is present in an amount of from 2.5 to 10% by weight.

Claim 15 (New): A kit for quantitatively determining a specific component in a biological specimen, which comprises:

(i) a first reagent comprising albumin, and

(ii) a second reagent comprising an electron acceptor, and a dehydrogenase capable of oxidizing the specific component or a substance derived from the specific component by dehydrogenation,

wherein the first reagent is a reagent for reacting the albumin with a biological specimen containing hemoglobin to avoid influence of the hemoglobin present in the biological specimen, and

wherein the second reagent is a reagent for reacting the electron acceptor and the dehydrogenase with the biological specimen after the first reagent is reacted with said biological specimen.

Claim 16 (New): The kit for quantitatively determining a specific component in a biological specimen according to Claim 15, further comprising a tetrazolium salt developer.

Claim 17 (New): The kit for quantitatively determining a specific component in a biological specimen according to Claim 15, wherein the electron acceptor is NAD or NADP.

Claim 18 (New): The kit according to Claim 15, wherein the albumin is derived from humans and is present in an amount of from 0.4 to 5% by weight.

Claim 19 (New): The kit according to Claim 15, wherein the albumin is derived from humans and is present in an amount of from 0.6 to 2% by weight.

Claim 20 (New): The kit according to Claim 15, wherein the albumin is derived from a bovine and is present in an amount of from 1 to 10% by weight.

Claim 21 (New): The kit according to Claim 15, wherein the albumin is derived from a bovine and is present in an amount of from 2.5 to 10% by weight.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1-21 are active in the present application. Independent Claim 6 has been amended to recite a first and a second reagent. Support for the amendment is found in the examples of the specification, e.g., page 12, last line through page 17. Support for the definition of mass % is found at page 10, lines 12-25 where mass % is defined as a concentration in the measuring reagent. Claims 1-5 are non-elected claims presently withdrawn from prosecution. Claims 11-21 are new claims. Support for new Claims 11-14 and 18-21 is found on page 10, lines 19-25. Support for new Claim 15 is found in the original claims and as found for the amendment to Claim 6 discussed above. Support for new Claims 16 and 17 is found in the original claims.

No new matter is believed to have been added by this amendment.